

March 17, 1994      LB 906, 1088

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator Will, I only hope you support 902 also.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. You've heard the motion to advance. All those in favor of LB 1088 being advanced to E & R Initial vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:      25 ayes,   0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 1088.

SENATOR HALL:      LB 1088 is advanced to E & R.      LB 906, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:      LB 906 introduced by Senator Hudkins. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Hudkins to open on LB 906.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 906 is what we are talking about, right now there are currently at least two different statutes governing the crime of jury tampering, and current law also has two different penalties depending on which statute you've used. Section 28-919 makes it a Class IV felony for tampering with a witness, informant, or a juror. However, the only act of jury tampering chargeable is if a person were to attempt to induce a juror to absent himself or herself from the proceedings. The act of influencing the vote of a juror is currently covered under Section 28-921. In this section, jury tampering is only a Class II misdemeanor. The inconsistencies between the punishments of the two statutes doesn't seem to be logical, and under LB 906, the statutes would be combined and the penalties would be the same. In a nutshell, that is what the bill does. So, thank you. Are there any questions?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Beutler, your light is next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hudkins, I do have a couple of questions.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Hudkins, if you would respond.